

NCPV Hotline — Week of May 26-30, 2008

Weekly News Items

Some of the following news items are available as Adobe Acrobat PDFs. [Download Adobe Reader](#).

The National Center for Photovoltaics (NCPV), the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL's) center for PV research maintains an international communications system called the NCPV Hotline. The Hotline increases knowledge and awareness of PV industry and research happenings. Hotline participants receive important news items via email related to PV activities around the world. The contents have been relatively uncensored, because we depend on the good judgment of the contributors to separate fact from rumor.

(Links may expire)

Current and archived NCPV Hotline issues <link to http://www.nrel.gov/pv/news_hotline.html>

Disclaimer <link to http://www.nrel.gov/pv/hotline/news_hotline_disclaimer.html>

Subscribe/Unsubscribe: Email name, organization, and e-mail address to [Carol Riordan](mailto:Carol_Riordan@nrel.gov) <mailto:Carol_Riordan@nrel.gov> at NREL

Note: The NCPV Hotline was offline May 26 for Memorial Day.

5-27-08 SunEdison Financing

SunEdison closed \$131 million of private equity and \$30 million of debt financing with new and existing investors over the last 6 months. Stories at Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNACO763.htm>

RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/partner/story?id=52583>

CNN Money:

http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/djf500/200805270855DOWJONESDJONLINE000263_FORTUNE5.htm or <http://tinyurl.com/68mqh9>

SunEdison: <http://www.sunedison.com/>

5-27-08 Signet Solar Production

Signet Solar announced the fabrication of the industry's first ever Gen 8.5 (5.7 m²) silicon thin film solar PV module at its new factory near Dresden, Germany, in a record-setting 10 months from the start of construction. Commercial production will start in Q3 2008, and capacity expansion to over 100 MW by 2009 is planned at the same site.

Story at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/news/NewsEUMA226.htm>

Signet Solar: <http://www.signetsolar.com/>

5-27-08 Q-Cells Expansion, Mexico

Silicon Border Science Park, located in Mexicali, the capital city of Baja California, Mexico, has been selected by Q-Cells for its next major expansion. Press at:

<http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/080527/20080527005885.html?v=1>

Silicon Border: <http://www.siliconborder.com/>

http://www.siliconborder.com/Press_Releases/Press_Release_Silicon_Border_QCELLS_FINAL_5_27_08.pdf or <http://tinyurl.com/4mtjrj>

Q-Cells: http://www.q-cells.com/cmadmin_2_474_0.html

5-27-08 Suntech Power Wafer Supply Agreement with Shunda Holdings, Minority Stake

Suntech Power has signed a definitive 13-year silicon wafer supply agreement with a subsidiary of Shunda Holdings Co. Ltd. Under the agreement, Shunda will supply Suntech with specified annual volumes of silicon wafers for a total volume of about 7 GW from 2008 to 2020. Story at Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASCO265.htm>

See also, "Suntech takes stake in polysilicon firm" at:

http://www.eetimes.com/rss/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=208400215&cid=RSSfeed_eetimes_newsRSS or

<http://tinyurl.com/6lhu4a>

Suntech: <http://www.suntech-power.com/>

5-27-08 Solibro Thin Film Production Line

Solibro GmbH, a joint venture between Q-Cells AG and Solibro AB, inaugurated its first CIGS thin-film module production line in Bitterfeld-Wolfen, Germany just 8 months after construction work started. Solibro has invested more than EUR 60 million in the factory, which has a production capacity of 25 to 30 MWp. Story at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsEUMA227.htm>
Solibro: <http://www.solibro-solar.com/>

5-27-08 Avalanche Effect in Solar Cells

Researchers at TU Delft (Netherlands) and the FOM Foundation for Fundamental Research on Matter have found proof that the so-called avalanche effect by electrons occurs in specific, very small semiconducting crystals, which could pave the way for cheap, high-output solar cells. Press at: <http://www.physorg.com/news131027836.html>

5-27-08 Yash Birla Group Expansion in Solar Energy

Yash Birla Group is set to sign an agreement with a Brazilian energy company to set up a joint venture firm in Brazil. Also, the company will start Indian operations under a new company. About Rs 2,000 crore will be invested for its expansion in solar energy for the next 5 years. Press at: <http://www.financialexpress.com/news/Yash-Birla-mulls-Brazilian-JV-for-solar-energy-foray/314981/>

5-27-08 Conergy Bundling All PV Activities

The Conergy group is further simplifying its structure by placing all PV business under the roof of "Conergy PV". EPURON's PV business in developing and financing large solar power plants will soon be handled by Conergy PV too. The development and financing of wind and bioenergy projects and large solar-thermal power plants will still be managed by EPURON. Nikolaus Krane will continue to manage the EPURON business. Press from Conergy: http://www.conergy.de/en/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-182/271_read-9047/ or <http://tinyurl.com/5cn4ft>
Conergy: <http://www.conergy.de/en/DesktopDefault.aspx>

5-27-08 Dyesol Camouflage Solar Panel

A Dyesol team successfully demonstrated a panel design showing the capability to recharge batteries in shady conditions, the ability to perform in any light, durability, and excellent camouflage. A team of 15 representatives from the Australian Department of Defence visited Dyesol to witness the demonstration of the flexible camouflage solar panel developed by Dyesol under the Defence Capability and Technology Demonstrator Program. Press from Dyesol: <http://tinyurl.com/5sdyjm>
Dyesol: <http://www.dyesol.com/index.php?page=Home>

5-27-08 Sony's Dye-sensitized Solar Cells

Sony said it has developed dye-sensitized solar cells with an energy conversion efficiency of 10%. Story through the PV Group <http://www.pvgroup.org/index.htm> at: <http://www.ciol.com/Semicon/Biz-Watch/News-Reports/Sony-develops-cost-efficient-solar-cells/26508106389/0/> or <http://tinyurl.com/4qd3se>

5-27-08 Dye-sensitized Solar Cells, Around the World

See the story "Around the world with dye-sensitized solar cells" at Printed Electronics World: http://www.idtechex.com/printedelectronicsworld/articles/around_the_world_with_dye_sensitized_solar_cells_00000935.asp or <http://tinyurl.com/4sesug>

5-27-08 G24 Innovations Grant from World Bank

G24 Innovations has won a grant from the World Bank to develop its technology to light homes in Rwanda. The company was awarded the grant in the Lighting Africa Development Marketplace awards in Ghana. Story through the PV Group <http://www.pvgroup.org/index.htm> at: <http://tinyurl.com/5s8re6>
G24 Innovations: <http://www.g24i.com/>

5-27-08 Aerowatt Stake in Solar Power Venture, France

Aerowatt said it has taken a 48% stake in Heliowatt, a new solar power venture based in Tavel. Aerowatt will invest in and operate the solar power arrays to be developed by the venture, which aims to install capacity of around 10 MW over the next two years. Story at: <http://www.forbes.com/afxnewslimited/feeds/afx/2008/05/27/afx5048624.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/57rpd>
Aerowatt: http://www.aerowatt.com/component/option,com_wrapper/Itemid,19/lang,en/ or <http://tinyurl.com/5v324b>

5-27-08 Enerize New Design for PV Modules

According to this press, Enerize Corporation has developed a new design for PV modules using a proprietary transparent polymer material that outperforms the glass conventionally used as a protective covering. Story at: <http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/080527/cltu010.html?v=101>
Enerize Corporation: <http://www.enerize.com/>

5-27-08 asola Contract from Sunworx

asola has won a US\$17 million contract from Sunworx for the supply of high-efficiency silicon PV solar modules. Stories at: <http://www.energycurrent.com/index.php?id=3&storyid=10776>
<http://tinyurl.com/6ospw5>
asola: <http://www.asola-power.com/>
Sunworx: <http://www.sunworx-solar.de/>

5-27-08 aleo solar Agreement with ersol Solar Energy

aleo solar AG announced that it has signed a procurement agreement for solar cells with ersol Solar Energy AG that runs from 2008 to the end of 2019 and covers a volume of 253 MW. Press at: http://ots.euroadhoc.com/irmeldung.php?schluessel=OTA_20080527_OTA0010&ag=OTA or <http://tinyurl.com/3qu76g>
aleo: <http://www.aleo-solar.de/>
ersol Solar Energy: <http://www.ersol.de/en/home/>

5-27-08 6N Silicon Investment, Canada

A \$1.5 million investment from the Ontario government's Innovation Demonstration Fund will help 6N Silicon Inc. develop a 3-year pilot line for producing and improving the process of making silicon through its patented purification process. Story at: <http://www.mississauga.com/article/14414>
6N Silicon: <http://www.6nsilicon.com/s/Home.asp>

5-27-08 More on Organic Thin-film Solar Cell Leaves

A leaf-like module featuring bright green solar cells was developed by the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Mitsubishi Corp. and Tokki Corp. More on the solar-cell leaves at: http://techon.nikkeibp.co.jp/english/NEWS_EN/20080527/152443/

5-27-08 Sharp Corp. Stake in Batteries for Solar Power Systems

Sharp Corp. said it spent about \$5.8 million to take a 32% stake in a venture for the development of lithium-ion batteries used in solar power systems. Story at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/companyNewsAndPR/idUSTFA00311820080526> or <http://tinyurl.com/6a7h97>
http://www.japancorp.net/Article.Asp?Art_ID=18338

5-27-08 Sputnik Operations, Production

Sputnik Engineering GmbH has transferred its operations from Stockach to Neuhausen, Germany and plans to manufacture a total of 275 MW of inverters this year at the new facility. Story at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/story?id=52581>
Sputnik Engineering: <http://www.solarmax.com/>

5-27-08 Certified Thin-film Modules Higher ASP

According to this press, while seeing a large number of orders on hand, thin-film module makers observe the growing importance of certification as certified products deliver a price premium of 20% over non-certified ones. See "Certified thin-film solar modules deliver higher ASP" at DigiTimes:

<http://www.digitimes.com/NewsShow/NewsSearch.asp?DocID=PD00000000000000000000000005865&query=SOLAR> or <http://tinyurl.com/4cbf3b>

5-27-08 SEMI Committee for Solar Product Standardization, Taiwan

SEMI recently announced the formation of a specialized committee comprising leading players from the solar industry in Taiwan aimed at establishing a standardization program for solar products. A total of 41 companies and 71 representatives are participating in the committee. More at DigiTimes:

<http://www.digitimes.com/news/a20080526PD209.html>

PV Group: <http://www.pvgroup.org/index.htm>

5-27-08 Solar Cells on Portable Devices

See the story "Apple files patent for 'solar cells on portable devices'" through the PV Group

<http://www.pvgroup.org/index.htm> at:

http://www.silobreaker.com/DocumentReader.aspx?Item=5_861691393 or <http://tinyurl.com/4hemn8>.

See also "Apple's Solar Strategy" at: <http://tinyurl.com/5r7dhj> and "Future Apple Devices May Be Solar-Powered" at: <http://www.pcworld.com/article/id,146307-c,businesscenter/article.html> or

<http://tinyurl.com/5k35ad>

5-27-08 Solar Arrays on Mars Lander

Alliant Techsystems announced that the Ultraflex Solar Arrays deployed and now provide power to the Mars Phoenix Lander. Press at: <http://tinyurl.com/5l2py2>

Alliant: http://atk.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=press_releases&item=821 or <http://tinyurl.com/5dhrfb>

http://www.twincities.com/ci_9363142

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/27/science/space/27mars.html?partner=rssnyt&emc=rss> or

<http://tinyurl.com/3jcwz4>

5-27-08 Solar Funding, Germany

According to this story, the Conservative CDU/CSU alliance in the German Bundestag has announced that they want to see a decrease in solar funding by 2010 of over 25%. Story at Solarbuzz:

<http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsEUGO52.htm>

5-27-08 Masdar's Solar Powered Rapid Transit System

See the story "Masdar's Solar Powered Rapid Transit System" at:

<http://www.inhabitat.com/2008/05/27/masdar-personal-rapid-transit-system/> or <http://tinyurl.com/6mh3mz>

5-27-08 GT Solar President and CEO Award Finalist

GT Solar Incorporated announced that its president and CEO, Thomas M. Zarrella, has been named as a finalist for the 2008 New England Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year Award. Press at:

<http://www.finanznachrichten.de/nachrichten-2008-05/artikel-10912612.asp> or <http://tinyurl.com/4fjwrn>

GT Solar: <http://www.gtsolar.com/>

5-27-08 CSP & CPV Finance & Investment Summit

The CSP & CPV Finance & Investment Summit is set for 8-9 October in Madrid, Spain. For more information, visit: <http://www.csptoday.com/eufinance/>

Registration: <https://secure.firstconf.com/csptoday/eufinance/register.htm>

5-27-08 Solar Summits Freiburg, Germany

Solar Summits Freiburg is set for 22-24 October 2008. For information, visit: <http://www.solarsummits.de/>

5-27-08 French PV Symposium

For information on the French Photovoltaic Symposium, 27 June, 2008, visit EPIA's events site at: <http://www.epia.org/index.php?id=202#c1355>

5-27-08 Borrego Solar Leading Discussion at Clean Technology

Borrego Solar Systems, Inc. announced that its Vice President of Business Development will lead a discussion entitled "The Influence of Rebates and Incentives on the Solar Industry, What Obstacles Remain for U.S. National Adoption of Solar PV?" during Clean Technology 2008, 1-5 June in Boston, Massachusetts. Press at: <http://www.marketwire.com/mw/release.do?id=861074>

Borrego Solar: <http://www.borregosolar.com/>

Clean Technology: <http://www.csievents.org/Cleantech2008/>

5-27-08 Climate Change Funds

The World Bank, U.S., Britain, and Japan have announced they will raise at least \$5.5 billion for two climate change funds – a cleantech fund, which will begin with \$5 billion, and one for R&D with \$500 million. Stories at: <http://venturebeat.com/2008/05/26/world-bank-will-raise-55-billion-cleantech-funding-with-the-us-britain-and-japan/> or <http://tinyurl.com/4xyyh2>

<http://tinyurl.com/3w7gww>

The World Bank: <http://www.worldbank.org/>

5-27-08 Big Solar

See "Big solar: Utility-scale power plants arise" and "Supersize solar power" at CNet News:

http://news.cnet.com/8301-11128_3-9951463-54.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1_3-0-20 or

<http://tinyurl.com/5obtsn>

http://news.cnet.com/2300-13840_3-6240094-1.html?part=rss&tag=6240094&subj=news or

<http://tinyurl.com/6s7cmd>

In related solar news...

5-27-08 Concentrated Solar Power Newsletter [Sara Lloyd-Jones]

The latest issue of the Concentrated Solar Power Newsletter from CSP Today is available at:

<http://www.csptoday.com/us/newsletter0508/index.htm>. To sign up to receive the newsletter, go to:

<http://www.csptoday.com/newsletter.shtml>

Newsletter Download: <http://www.csptoday.com/us/newsletter.shtml>

5-27-08 Palestinian Solar Heating Market

Millennium Energy Industries in partnership with Catalyst Private Equity and Arab Palestinian Investment Ltd. announced the inception of Millennium Energy Palestine to further develop the Palestinian solar heating market. Story at: <http://www.ameinfo.com/158111.html>

Millennium Energy Industries: <http://www.millenniumenergy.co.uk/>

5-27-08 HLT Energies Private Placement

HLT Energies Inc. announced details of the proposed private placement of a \$225,000 secured convertible debenture initially announced in December 2007. Story at:

<http://biz.yahoo.com/iw/080526/0400650.html>

HLT Energies: <http://www.hltenergies.com/>

5-28-08 ARISE Technologies PV Cell Plant, Germany

ARISE Technologies announced that the official opening of its PV cell manufacturing plant in Bischofswerda, Germany will be 6 June. Story at:

http://biz.yahoo.com/cnw/080527/arise_open_new_plant.html?.v=1

ARISE Technologies: <http://www.arisetech.com/>

5-28-08 Motech Industries Capacity

Motech Industries expects its total capacity to reach 2 GWp within three to five years, according to company chairman Simon Tsuo. Story at DigiTimes:

<http://www.digitimes.com/NewsShow/NewsSearch.asp?DocID=PD00000000000000000000000005875&query=SOLAR> or <http://tinyurl.com/6kruhk>

Motech: <http://www.motech.com.tw/>

5-28-08 E-ton Investment in M.Setek

E-ton Solar Tech announced that the E-ton Group will invest US\$200 million to fund M.Setek's construction of a new polysilicon fab. Under the investment deal, half of the fab's output, or at least 1,500 metric tons annually, will be supplied to E-ton. Story at DigiTimes:

<http://www.digitimes.com/NewsShow/NewsSearch.asp?DocID=PD00000000000000000000000005878&query=SOLAR> or <http://tinyurl.com/56ogkh>

E-ton Solar: <http://www.e-tonsolar.com/>

M.Setek: <http://www.msetek.com/en/index.html>

5-28-08 Efun Technology into PV

Taiwan-based optical film maker Efun Technology is diversifying into PV by investing in a thin-film solar cell company whose initial target capacity is 40 MWp by 2010. Story at DigiTimes:

<http://www.digitimes.com/NewsShow/NewsSearch.asp?DocID=PD00000000000000000000000005885&query=SOLAR> or <http://tinyurl.com/6aczvb>

Efun Technology: <http://www.efun.com.tw/efun/zh-tw/home.asp>

5-28-08 Thin-film Market [Patrick Jonas, EuPD Research]

EuPD Research recently released an article, "What is the Reality Behind the Thin Film Hype?", with insights into current research results on global PV thin film markets. Press at: http://www.eupd-research.com/view/PressRelease/document/080528_PM_ThinFilm_en.pdf or <http://tinyurl.com/5rojpk>.

See "PV Thin Film Industry Analysis" at: http://www.eupd-research.com/de/download/EuPD_Research_PV_Thin_Film_Industry_Analysis_Press.pdf or <http://tinyurl.com/5pg5mf>

EuPD Research: <http://www.eupd-research.com/en/studien/eu/#24>

<http://www.eupd-research.com/en/home/>

<http://www.eupd-research.com/intsolar/>

5-28-08 Sunways Module Supply Contract with Webasto Solar

Sunways AG has entered into a contract for the manufacture and supply of solar modules with Webasto Solar GmbH. Story at: http://www.presseportal.de/pm/57666/1199384/sunways_ag

Sunways AG: <http://www.sunways.de/de/>

Webasto Solar: <http://www.webasto-solar.de/en/>

5-28-08 Canadian Solar Inc. Offer

Canadian Solar Inc. announced the commencement of an offer to holders of CSI's 6.0% Convertible Senior Notes due 2017 to convert their notes to CSI's common shares at an increased conversion rate.

More at: <http://www.foxbusiness.com/story/markets/industries/energy/canadian-solar-announces-conversion-offer--convertible-senior-notes/> or <http://tinyurl.com/5cmaep>

Canadian Solar Inc.: <http://www.csisolar.com/>

5-28-08 BIPV Price Premium

According to this press, the price premium for see-through building-integrated PV materials over conventional BIPV materials has drawn attention among solar module companies to gear up their deployments. Story at DigiTimes: http://www.digitimes.com/bits_chips/a20080523PD211.html

5-28-08 International PV Equipment Association

Companies focusing on production technology for solar silicon ingots, wafers, solar cells, and PV modules have joined forces in launching the International Photovoltaic Equipment Association (IPVEA). Stories at:

http://www.eetimes.com/news/semi/rss/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=208400286&cid=RSSfeed_eetimes_s_emiRSS or <http://tinyurl.com/6ordc6>

http://www.pv-tech.org/r_and_d/article/pv_equipment_suppliers_join_forces or <http://tinyurl.com/6rtojf>

IPVEA: <http://www.ipvea.com/>

5-28-08 Masdar Billions in Solar Technology

According to this press, Masdar is to spend close to Dh7.3 billion (US\$2bn) on producing solar technology to be used on its projects in the UAE and worldwide. Story at:

<http://www.thenational.ae/article/20080528/BUSINESS/851291912/1040/ART> or <http://tinyurl.com/3pj8hg>

The Masdar Initiative: <http://www.masdaruae.com/>

5-28-08 American Elements CdTe Production Expansion

American Elements announced further expansion of its cadmium telluride production facilities to meet growing demand for the material in solar energy panels and as quantum dots in LED lighting. Press at:

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/cadmiumtelluride/solarenergylighting/prweb976204.htm> or

<http://tinyurl.com/3zn74y>

American Elements: <http://www.americanelements.com/>

5-28-08 XsunX Relationship with Newport Corp.

XsunX Inc. has expanded its 2-year relationship with Newport Corp. by selecting Newport as its preferred supplier for laser and motion subsystems for its integrated thin-film PV manufacturing line. Press at:

http://www.solarindustrymag.com/e107_plugins/content/content_lt.php?content.1383 or

<http://tinyurl.com/6m8e42>

XsunX: <http://www.xsunx.com/>

5-28-08 Renewable Energy Policy Perspective, U.S.

See the story "Renewable Energy in the U.S.: Sneaking in the Backdoor or Walking Through the Front" by Dr. Michael Hoexter, at RenewableEnergyWorld:

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/recolumnists/story?id=52490> or <http://tinyurl.com/594ret>

5-28-08 PV Industry Forum

See information on the 4th PV Industry Forum in Munich, Germany, 10-11 June at:

<http://www.renewableenergymagazine.com/paginas/ContenidoSecciones.asp?ID=2653&Tipo=&Nombre=PV%20Solar%20News> or <http://tinyurl.com/3pgdgf>

PV Industry Forum: <http://www.pvindustry.de/>

5-28-08 Prism Solar Technologies at Summit

Prism Solar Technologies announced that Rick Lewandowski, CEO, will present at this year's TechConnect Summit™ in Boston, Massachusetts on 4 June. Press from Prism Solar Technologies:

<http://www.prismsolar.com/news.html>

TechConnect Summit™, 3-5 June: <http://techconnect.org/Summit2008/>

In related solar news...

5-28-08 SCHOTT Solar Plant for Solar Receivers, Spain

SCHOTT Solar inaugurated its new plant for solar receivers in Aznalcollar near Seville, Spain. The annual production volume corresponds to a power plant capacity of up to 200 MW. Story at RenewableEnergyWorld:

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/story?id=52591>

SCHOTT Solar: <http://www.us.schott.com/photovoltaic/english/index.html>

5-29-08 Masdar PV Thin-film Investment

The UAE's Masdar Initiative is to proceed with a multi-billion dollar investment in thin-film PV solar technology as part of its drive to become a world leader in alternative energy. According to press, Masdar PV will initially invest \$600 million in two manufacturing facilities, with module production lines supplied by Applied Materials. Stories at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsEUMA228.htm> RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/story?id=52607> Mena Report: <http://www.menareport.com/en/business/228468> PV Tech: http://www.pv-tech.org/fab_and_facilities/article/applied_materials_secures_2_billion_turnkey_sunfab_order_from_abu_dhabi or <http://tinyurl.com/67qw5o> Greentech Media: <http://greenlight.greentechmedia.com/2008/05/29/abu-dhabi's-masdar-to-get-into-solar-with-help-from-applied-materials/> or <http://tinyurl.com/6cpo4t> EETimes: <http://www.eetimes.com/news/semi/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=208400773> or <http://tinyurl.com/678a8t> Applied Materials: <http://www.appliedmaterials.com/> http://www.appliedmaterials.com/products/solar_sunfab_3.html?menuID=9_5_3 or <http://tinyurl.com/2zsj5p> http://www.appliedmaterials.com/products/index_pc3.html or <http://tinyurl.com/63ljul>

5-29-08 Yingli Polysilicon Contract with Sailing New Energy Resources

Yingli Green Energy has entered into a polysilicon supply contract with Sailing New Energy Resources Co., Ltd. Under the contract, Sailing will supply polysilicon to Yingli from the 4th quarter of 2008 through the end of 2010. Story at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASCO266.htm> Yingli: <http://www.yinglisolar.com/enmain/user/index.asp>

5-29-08 Sunways Expansion, Wafer Supply from LDK Solar

Sunways AG has completed funding for the expansion of its Arnstadt cell production capacity. The expansion will accommodate the first wafer shipments expected to be received under the cooperation agreement with LDK Solar in the 2nd half of the year. Said Roland Burkhard, chairman of the Management Board of Sunways, "The conclusion of the 10 year wafer supply contract with LDK Solar for a total production output of 1,000 megawatts formed the basis for the capacity expansion in Arnstadt". More on Sunways plans and developments at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsEU559.htm> Sunways: <http://www.sunways.de/en/index.php> LDK Solar: <http://www.ldksolar.com/>

5-29-08 Japanese Companies' New Polysilicon Plant

Chisso Corp. and two other Japanese companies said they will build a joint plant to mass produce polysilicon used to make solar wafers. Story at RedOrbit: http://www.redorbit.com/news/business/1406773/japan_firms_to_build_new_polysilicon_plant/ or <http://tinyurl.com/4yf5vc>

5-29-08 EPURON Korea PV Project

The Korean subsidiary of EPURON GmbH has completed its first PV project with a capacity of 2 MW. EPURON Korea was commissioned by Samchully Co. Ltd. to finance and develop the plant. Parent company Conergy was contracted to execute the engineering and construction, as well as the operational management of the plant. Press from Conergy/EPURON: http://www.epuron.de/en/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-933/571_read-1628/ or <http://tinyurl.com/45nx22> Photo: <http://www.epuron.de/desktopdefault.aspx/tabid-809/>

5-29-08 PV System for Prison, California

Ironwood State Prison and SunEdison announced the activation of a new 1.18 MW ground-mounted PV solar power system. Under a solar power services agreement, SunEdison financed, constructed and will operate the solar energy system. Story and photo at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNAPR1098.htm> SunEdison: <http://www.sunedison.com/>

5-29-08 Winery's "Floatovoltaic" Solar Array, California

Napa Valley winery Far Niente has gone live with its "Floatovoltaic" solar array developed by Thompson Technology Industries, Inc. and installed by SPG Solar using Sharp panels. Far Niente's Floatovoltaic system involved securing nearly 1,000 Sharp solar panels on pontoons, then floating the pontoons on the winery's vineyard irrigation pond. Another section of 1,300 panels is located on land adjacent to the pond. Story and photo at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsNAPR1099.htm>

Sharp press at RenewableEnergyWorld:

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/partner/story?id=52612>

Thompson Technology Industries, Inc.: <http://www.thompsontec.com/>

SPG Solar: <http://www.spgsolar.com/>

Sharp: <http://solar.sharppusa.com/solar/home/0,2462,,00.html>

5-29-08 SunPower Solar-electric Plants, Spain

SunPower Corp. announced the completion of 2 solar-electric power plants in Spain totaling 8.7 MW.

Press at: http://www.bizjournals.com/sanjose/stories/2008/05/26/daily40.html?ana=from_rss or

<http://tinyurl.com/3hc5dz>

SunPower: <http://investors.sunpowercorp.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=312785> or

<http://tinyurl.com/3n7fg4>

<http://www.sunpowercorp.com/>

5-29-08 Itochu Solar Farms in Eastern Europe

Itochu Corp. plans to spend at least 110 billion yen (\$1.05 billion) to develop solar farms in the Czech Republic and other Eastern European countries, building on those governments' efforts to broaden access to clean energy projects. Press at:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601101&sid=azMxlrIXcviY> or <http://tinyurl.com/5opr34>

Itochu: http://www.itochu.co.jp/main/index_e.html

5-29-08 Itochu Stake in Scatec Solar Power Technology

Itochu Corp. said it has bought 10% of unlisted Norwegian solar power technology firm Scatec AS for \$12.4 million. More on Itochu's developments at Reuters:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUST19861520080529>

Itochu: http://www.itochu.co.jp/main/index_e.html

Scatec: http://www.scatec.no/?sc_lang=en

5-29-08 3S Swiss Solar Systems Acquisition of Somont

3S Swiss Solar Systems AG is acquiring the German specialist and producer of automatic string soldering machinery, Somont GmbH. Somont will become part of a newly created group under the name of 3S Industries AG, which will cover the entire value chain in solar module production. Press at 3S Swiss Solar Systems

<http://tinyurl.com/3zoouy>

<http://www.3-s.ch/en/3s-homepage/>

5-29-08 More on Evergreen Solar \$35-\$50 Million Facility in Michigan

See "Solar-energy company to build \$35 million plant in Midland County" with coverage of Evergreen Solar's plans, at:

http://www.mlive.com/business/index.ssf/2008/05/solarenergy_company_to_build_3.html or

<http://tinyurl.com/4g5lwm>

Evergreen Solar: <http://www.evergreensolar.com/>

5-29-08 Acciona PV Plant in Portugal

Acciona stated that the 46 MW PV plant it is building in Amareleja, Portugal is 66% complete and is expected to be connected to the grid later in 2008. Story at: http://www.energy-business-review.com/article_news.asp?guid=7F4EB991-9456-4A6F-B232-F67F68ABDF89 or

<http://tinyurl.com/5selxk>

Acciona: <http://www.acciona.com/>

5-29-08 Thin-film Surviving Shakeout, Bright Future

See the story "Thin-Film to Survive Solar Shakeout" with coverage of managing director for Deutsche Bank Securities Stephen O'Rourke's perspective at the recent Greentech Media conference at:

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/thin-film-to-survive-solar-shakeout-943.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/66vshw>

See also "Thin-Film Solar Has Bright Future" covering a presentation by Travis Bradford, President of the Prometheus Institute, at: <http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/thin-film-solar-has-bright-future-946.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/68ebgd>

5-29-08 Stion Corp. Financing, Plans

Stion Corp. plans to close its 3rd round at the end of this year. The company expects to bring high-efficiency thin films to market in early 2010 after developing a fully working prototype late this year or early next year, with plans to build a 5-MW pilot facility in 2009. Story at Greentech Media:

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/stealthy-stion-to-raise-another-round-944.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/6ja4tw>

Stion Corporation: <http://www.stion.com/index.htm>

5-29-08 1366 Technologies Competition Winner; Coverage of Cyrium Technologies, GreenVolts, SV Solar, and Stion Corp.

Three New England venture capitalists chose 1366 Technologies as the winner of a startup competition at the recent Greentech Media conference. More on this company, as well as coverage of several others, at: <http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/1336-technologies-wins-solar-startup-competition-945.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/45xddy>

1366 Technologies: <http://1366tech.com/v1/>

Cyrium: <http://www.cyriumtechnologies.com/index.html>

GreenVolts™: <http://www.greenvolts.com/>

SV Solar: <http://www.sv-solar.com/>

Stion Corp.: <http://www.stion.com/>

5-29-08 Titanium Oxide Single Crystals for Solar Power

Professor Max Lu from the University of Queensland Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology said his team has grown the world's first titanium oxide single crystals with large amounts of reactive surfaces; the crystals absorb sunlight and convert it to electricity. More at:

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/080528/2/171q5.html>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/05/29/2258722.htm>

5-29-08 RenewableEnergyWorld Podcast

See the latest Podcast at RenewableEnergyWorld titled "Verifying Efficiency Claims for Organic PV; Renewable Heating and Cooling in Europe" at:

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/podcast?id=52611>

5-29-08 SMUD Rebates for Sacramento County Health Services, California

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District provided more than \$300,000 to Sacramento County in rebates for a solar electric system that has been installed at the new county health services office building. Story at RenewableEnergyWorld: <http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/story?id=52604>

5-29-08 Western Renewable Energy Zones, U.S. DOE – Western Governors' Association Project

The U.S. DOE announced that it plans to contribute up to \$2.3 million over 3 years, subject to Congressional appropriations, to identify areas in the Western U.S. with vast renewable energy resources, and expedite the development and delivery of those resources to meet regional energy needs. See more on the Western Renewable Energy Zones project, launched by the Western Governors' Association in cooperation with DOE in the DOE press at: <http://www.energy.gov/news/6284.htm>

Western Governors' Association, Western Renewable Energy Zones: <http://www.westgov.org/>

5-29-08 Large PV Projects, U.S.

Nonresidential solar-electric projects are growing in the U.S., with big projects making up 29% of the total market in 2007, compared with 9% in 2004, according to the Interstate Renewable Energy Council. See the story "Large PV Plants Get Larger" at Greentech Media:

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/large-pv-plants-get-larger-940.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/5q9gww>

5-29-08 IREC State & Stakeholder Newsletter [Jane Pulaski]

The latest issue of the Interstate Renewable Energy Council's State & Stakeholder Newsletter with coverage of national news, state & local news, grants/RFPs, upcoming events, and other news is available at: <http://www.irecusa.org/index.php?id=11>

5-29-08 PV Industry Welcomes Turmes Draft Report [Marie Latour]

According to this press from the EPIA, the draft report by Rapporteur Claude Turmes on the EU Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources largely meets the European PV industry expectations, in particular with regard to the safeguarding of successful national support schemes, such as feed-in tariffs. Press at: <http://www.pressebox.de/pressemeldungen/european-photovoltaic-industry-association/boxid-178396.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/6raw5k>

5-29-08 Webinar on Success in Solar Manufacturing

Greentech Media Inc. is hosting a Webinar presented by Spire on "Success in Solar Manufacturing – Challenges and Opportunities" on 10 June. Registration at:

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/events/webinars/webinar-details-spire.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/4ye458>

5-29-08 Solar Energy Topical Meeting at Stanford University in California [Sara Charbonneau-Lefort]

A 2-day topical meeting, "Solar Energy: New Materials and Nanostructured Devices for High Efficiency" is set for 24-25 June hosted by the Stanford Photonics Research Center and the Optical Society of America. Information at:

<http://stanfordphotonics.stanford.edu/calendar.event.php?id=89>
<http://www.osa.org/meetings/topicalmeetings/Solar/default.aspx>

5-29-08 SolarCity Summer Seminars

SolarCity announced a series of summer seminars to help inform California residents about affordable new ways to switch to clean solar power. Information at:

<http://biz.yahoo.com/pnews/080529/aqth069.html?v=53>

SolarCity: <http://www.solarcity.com/tabid/133/Default.aspx>

<http://www.solarcity.com/>

5-29-08 Solar Research Station, Alamosa, Colorado

See the story about "Sunspot One", a solar research station sponsored through a state grant with a start-up cost of \$25,000, at:

http://www.alamosanews.com/V2_news_articles.php?heading=0&page=&story_id=7639 or

<http://tinyurl.com/5ddtx8>

In related solar news...

5-29-08 St-Gobain Solar Mirrors Plant

Compagnie de St-Gobain said it is to invest 20 million Euros to enlarge its Portuguese solar mirrors plant at Covilis. Story at: <http://www.forbes.com/afxnewslimited/feeds/afx/2008/05/28/afx5055257.html> or

<http://tinyurl.com/59gjat>

Saint-Gobain: <http://www.saint-gobain.com/fr/html/index.asp>

<http://www.saint-gobain.com/fr/html/presse/pdf/Covilis-VF2.pdf> or <http://tinyurl.com/5np2p8>

5-30-08 More on Masdar Multi-Billion Dollar Thin-film Commitment

A new \$2-billion commitment from Masdar – one of the largest single investments made in solar to date – is expected to fund a 3-phased manufacturing and expansion strategy to produce the latest generation of thin-film modules. The Abu Dhabi Future Energy Co. is contracting with Applied Materials to purchase three SunFab™ Thin Film Lines for producing solar modules. See more on the Masdar thin-film plans at Cleantech@: <http://media.cleantech.com/2904/masdar-getting-into-thin-film-solar-business-abu-dhabi> or <http://tinyurl.com/5jbc8d>

Other press: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/080530/20080530005167.html?.v=1>

<http://www.industryweek.com/ReadArticle.aspx?ArticleID=16438>

http://business.timesonline.co.uk/tol/business/markets/the_gulf/article4029328.ece or

<http://tinyurl.com/66nqmh>

http://news.cnet.com/8301-11128_3-9954708-54.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1_3-0-20 or

<http://tinyurl.com/5u8okd>

Applied Materials: http://www.appliedmaterials.com/products/solar_sunfab_3.html

5-30-08 Solar Thin Films MOU with China Singyes

Solar Thin Films, Inc. has signed an MOU with China Singyes Holding Limited to build out 100 MW of module manufacturing capacity in China. Under the MOU, Solar Thin Films will supply equipment, technology and general engineering and design support, and retain certain rights outside of China to market and distribute BIPV products. Story at:

<http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/080530/20080530005070.html?.v=1>

Solar Thin Films: <http://www.solarthinfilms.com/>

5-30-08 SCHOTT Solar Cell Order from FUJIPREAM

SCHOTT Solar has received a cell order from Japan's FUJIPREAM Corporation. SCHOTT Solar will deliver multi-crystalline 6-inch solar cells to the "Clean Eco Energy" business unit from the 3rd quarter of this year until 2011. The total quantity will be 17.5 MW at nominal power, with an option for doubling the quantities. Story at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASCO271.htm>

SCHOTT Solar: <http://www.schottsolar.com/de/home.html>

FUJIPREAM: <http://www.fujipream.co.jp/en/index.html>

<http://www.fujipream.co.jp/en/clean/index.html>

5-30-08 Waaree Energies PV Module Manufacturing, India

Waaree Group has diversified into the renewable energy segment through its new solar energy activities. Group company, Waaree Energies Pvt. Ltd., has started manufacturing PV modules in Surat SEZ in the state of Gujarat. Story at Solarbuzz: <http://www.solarbuzz.com/News/NewsASMA163.htm>

Waaree: <http://www.waaree.com/>

5-30-08 OPEL International Distribution Agreement with Solarfun

OPEL International announced it has entered an agreement with Solarfun Power Holdings Co. Ltd. to market Solarfun's full line of solar panels in North America and Brazil. Story at:

<http://biz.yahoo.com/iw/080529/0401987.html>

OPEL International: <http://www.opelinc.com/>

Solarfun: <http://www.solarfun.com.cn/>

5-30-08 Evergreen Solar Expansion

Evergreen Solar Inc. expects to be profitable in the 1st quarter of 2009 and is considering expanding into Asia under a plan to dramatically boost capacity, said its chief executive, Richard Feldt. Press at:

http://www.boston.com/business/ticker/2008/05/evergreen_solar_11.html or <http://tinyurl.com/5nk9qh>

Evergreen Solar: <http://www.evergreensolar.com/app/en/home/>

5-30-08 REC Solar a Preferred Provider for The Livermore Solar Electricity Group, California

REC Solar announced it has been selected as a preferred solar electricity provider by The Livermore Solar Electricity Group. To celebrate, REC Solar is running a special summer program offering Livermore residents deep discounts on solar electric systems for their homes and businesses. Story at:

<http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/080530/20080530005154.html?.v=1>

REC Solar: <http://www.recsolar.com/cm/Home.html>

5-30-08 Energy Conversion Devices on Bright Solar Future

See the story "Energy Conversion Devices CEO sees bright solar future" at the Oakland Business Review:

http://www.mlive.com/businessreview/oakland/index.ssf/2008/05/ecds_new_chief_sees_bright_sol.html

or <http://tinyurl.com/6c2n4l>

ECD: <http://www.ovonic.com/>

5-30-08 Timminco Perspective

See the story "Timminco dismisses skepticism about company's solar grade silicon" at:

<http://www.oilweek.com/news.asp?ID=16402>

Timminco: <http://www.timminco.com/>

5-30-08 Poseidon Solar Services Silicon Recycling Facility, India

Poseidon Solar Services Pvt. Ltd., a subsidiary of Solar-Fabrik AG, opened its new silicon recycling facility. Story at: <http://www.newkerala.com/one.php?action=fullnews&id=66834>

Poseidon Solar Services Pvt. Ltd.: <http://www.poseidonchemicals.com/>

Solar-Fabrik Group: <http://www.solar-fabrik.com/konzern-english/solar-fabrik-group/company/> or

<http://tinyurl.com/3z5uxc>

5-30-08 More on Japanese JV for Polysilicon Production

Chisso Corp., Nippon Mining Holdings Inc., and Toho Titanium Co. Ltd. will jointly establish "Shin-Nihon Solar Silicon", a tentative name, to manufacture and sell polysilicon for solar cells. The first phase of construction will begin in July 2008, with operations slated to start in the first half of fiscal 2010. Story at:

http://techon.nikkeibp.co.jp/english/NEWS_EN/20080530/152669/

5-30-08 Silicon Supply

A solar industry forecast by the Prometheus Institute shows the solar industry increasing its silicon production, but absorbing the material will take longer than originally predicted. See the story "Oversupply of Silicon Worse Than Expected" at Greentech Media:

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/oversupply-of-silicon-worse-than-expected-947.html> or

<http://tinyurl.com/6myqol>

5-30-08 SkyPower Strategy

SkyPower said it is considering strategic alternatives to augment its growing capital base and accelerate the development of its wind and solar pipelines. Story at Cleantech@:

<http://media.cleantech.com/2912/skypower-exploring-strategic-alternatives> or <http://tinyurl.com/5v8699>

SkyPower: <http://www.skypower.com/>

5-30-08 Solar Power Inc. \$3M Commitment Letter

Solar Power Inc. announced that it has signed a commitment letter with Bridge Bank N.A. for a \$3M asset-based line of credit secured by the Company's accounts receivable and customer-assigned utility rebates. Press at: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/080530/20080530005119.html?v=1>

Solar Power Inc.: <http://www.solarpowerinc.net/>

5-30-08 Organic PV Panel Production, Korea

According to this press, Korea Parts and Fasteners and Plextronics will invest \$12 million and \$10 million, respectively, to build a production line for organic PV panels in Cheongju, with an R&D center, said the Ministry of Knowledge Economy. More on PV activity in Korea at:

<http://joongangdaily.joins.com/article/view.asp?aid=2890502>

Plextronics: <http://www.plextronics.com/>

5-30-08 Carmanah Technologies Corporation Solar LED Lighting for Transit Project

As part of an ongoing commitment to equip Transport for London transit routes with solar-powered lighting and communications technology, Carmanah Technologies Corporation has received an additional purchase order of \$1.1 M from Trueform Engineering Ltd. for London Bus Stop systems. Story at:

<http://tinyurl.com/6ll695>

Carmanah: <http://www.carmanah.com/>

5-30-08 Nanosolar CEO at SolarPlaza's Thin-film Event [Johan Trip]

Martin Roscheisen, CEO of Nanosolar, will be discussing Nanosolar's history and future at the conference titled "Thin-film Future – Shortcut to Grid-Parity?" being held 11 June in Munich, Germany, where he will be one of the speakers. See the press release from SolarPlaza: <http://tinyurl.com/5m422y>
The Thin-film Future: <http://www.thethin-filmfuture.com/>
Nanosolar: <http://www.nanosolar.com/team.htm>

5-30-08 Cleantech Deals

Countries around the world are funding clean technology, with a number of government-backed investments and a total of 17 deals over the last week. See more on these cleantech deals, including solar, at Cleantech®: <http://media.cleantech.com/2907/governments-dole-out-cash-for-cleantech> or <http://tinyurl.com/6ogcxa>

5-30-08 BLM-DOE Environmental Impact Statement for Solar Energy Developments

The Bureau of Land Management has initiated a joint Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement with the Department of Energy to assess the environmental, social, and economic impacts associated with solar energy developments on BLM-managed public land in 6 western states. The BLM will accept written comments related to scoping that are postmarked or delivered by 7 July 2008 and electronic comments received by the same date. A series of public meetings will be held to get comments. Press at: http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/newsroom/2008/may_08/NR_053008.html or <http://tinyurl.com/3syy3x>

Project Website: <http://solareis.anl.gov/>

5-30-08 Germany's Solar Energy Sector

According to this press, Germany's ruling parties have reached a deal on support for the solar energy sector that foresees cuts of 8% in 2009 and 2010 and 9% in 2011. Story at Reuters:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssTechMediaTelecomNews/idUSL3015831520080530> or <http://tinyurl.com/6af6n8>

Additional press: <http://www.iht.com/articles/2008/05/30/business/30solar.php> or

<http://tinyurl.com/6mvbcz>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601100&sid=aWrkuCfu4aT8> or <http://tinyurl.com/6kxmrp>

<http://tinyurl.com/62xl7x>

5-30-08 MIT Future of Solar Energy Study

A team of MIT faculty members has begun a comprehensive study of the technology and the economics of a variety of approaches to harnessing the power of the sun. Under the direction of Institute Professor John Deutch, the group will spend about 1-1/2 years analyzing the prospects for PV, solar thermal, solar water heating, and the use of solar energy to produce fuels. The MIT Future of Solar Energy Study is the 3rd in a series of broad studies of energy options. Story through PV Group

<http://www.pvgroup.org/index.htm> at MIT News: <http://web.mit.edu/newsoffice/2008/solar-study-0529.html> or <http://tinyurl.com/6c4cgz>

5-30-08 IREC "Connecting to the Grid" Newsletter [Joan Ward]

The latest issue of the Interstate Renewable Energy Council's "Connecting to the Grid" Newsletter, with State news by region and miscellaneous news, is available at: <http://www.irecusa.org/index.php?id=33>

5-30-08 Georgia Tech's Solar Home

See the story "Ga. Tech's solar-powered house wins accolades, award" at:

http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/atlanta/stories/2008/05/29/georgia_tech_solar_house.html or

<http://tinyurl.com/5ayhy2>

Solar Decathlon: <http://www.solardecathlon.org/>

5-30-08 Solar Power from Space

For a story on solar power beamed from space, see CNN at:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2008/TECH/science/05/30/space.solar/>